

[22 February, 2001] RAJYA SABHA

Poor storage facility for Grains in FCI

135. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor storage facility for foodgrains in FCI godowns resulting in wastage of substantial quantity of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details of the foodgrains stock in the FCI godowns showing their capacity and also the excess quantum of foodgrains laying unstored; and

(c) the steps being taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Storage capacity position as on 1.1.2001 of FCI stocks held and %age utilisation is given as under:-

<i>(Figures in '000 tonnes)</i>			
Covered	Owned	Hired	Total
Capacity	12596.50	10104.08	22700.58
Stocks held	11255.59	9071.15	20326.74
%age utilisation	89%	90%	90%
Cover and Plinth (CAP)			
Capacity	2465.02	4904.11	7369.13
Stocks held	2374.48	4354.81	6729.29
%age utilisation	93%	89%	91%

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

Proposal for dumping of surplus Foodgrains into Sea

136. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution has recommended that at least 205.520 metric tonnes of foodgrains be dumped into the sea to avoid storage problem;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether it would be appropriate and morally justified to destroy such huge stock of foodgrains when millions starve and die of hunger and what action has been taken against those officials found responsible for this damage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has recommended that in case the Government is unable to plan for disposal of rotten foodgrains, it is suggested that they may take a practical approach to clear the storage space even by throwing the foodgrains into deep sea or otherwise before on set of Rabi Season, so that next arrival of crops do not suffer for want of sufficient storage.

(b) Although the stocks of foodgrains with FCI are stored and maintained on scientific lines, some quantity of foodgrains get